

4/23/23

Sunday service

The Life of Bartizan that Raises Me

1 Samuel 19:18-24

You who have the gospel must live the life of the bartizan in order to live according to the purpose for which God created you. To live the life of a bartizan is to live a life that fulfills the role of being a bartizan established by God. God establishes the bartizan to protect you from the enemies. Also, the bartizan is established to guide your life. So this bartizan is God's method for the people who have gained salvation to live a life as a bartizan. The most important thing is that someone must play the role of a bartizan in this age. In the life of a Christian, there are those who live their lives satisfied by enjoying the grace they receive or those who live a life enjoying that grace and relaying it to other people. One thing for sure, is that God desires you to live a life standing as a bartizan that relays the gospel. This is because through the life of a bartizan you will confirm the reason for your life. Your life must have a purpose. Only then will the money, success, honor, and power that you possess have a true purpose. That's why God tells you not to aim at the wrong things that will rot away in the world but to take part in God's ministry that saves people. When you live this life, you will live a life that enjoys God's greatest power and blessings. God gave us the word bartizan so that you can live your life with the correct purpose. Through the bartizan the gospel will be relayed and God's salvation will expand. That's why the moment that you come to the resolution to live a life as a bartizan, God will guide your life. The moment that this resolution enters into your heart you will truly discover God who works within your life. May you testify that this is the answer.

1. Always return to the basics

The basics of God's people are the Word of God, the covenant, and being centered on Christ. And you must relay this to live the life of a witness. You are not a person of God who conquers with force, but rather conquers with the power of God. You simply need to receive God's power, but God has given you this through the basics. You must replace your me-centeredness with God-centered and make it the center of your life. The Mizpah Movement arose during the time of 1 Samuel 7. During the time when Prophet Eleazar had charge of the ark of the covenant, the Israelites fought against the Philistines and lost the ark of the covenant. However, the ark of the covenant returned into the hands of the Israelites with the help of God. And they remained in the house of Abinadab in Kiriath-jearim for twenty years. The reason was because there was no temple to place the ark of the covenant inside of. The tabernacle was not ready either. What does this signify? This shows that the basics of the Israelites that they must serve to God were crumbled. The Israelites still believed in God, but they lost hold of the life centered on the temple and God's Word. That is why they are repetitively attacked by the Philistines and suffer through the consequences. During that time, Samuel arose to gather all of God's people in Mizpah and repent. They made the resolution to return back to God. And surely, the Philistines attacked once again. However, Samuel prepared a proper burnt offering to give before God and God answered. As thunderstruck, the Philistine army fled. The Bible records that during the time Samuel was alive, the Philistines did not attack the Israelites. The meaning of the word "Mizpah" is the bartizan. Mizpah is an actual location on the highest point of North Jerusalem. It was Samuel that lived the life of the bartizan and kept the bartizan to be raised. This is the important mystery that you must know to live as a bartizan. What they did at Mizpah was simply to repent and restore the covenant. And the Israelites lived like this as well.

If your life could be used like how Samuel was, wouldn't that be the greatest blessing that you could enjoy on this earth? May you challenge yourself. To do this, you must confess Christ once again today. May you rely on Only God's power and boldly challenge yourself.

2. **Prepare the future**

After the Mizpah movement that was established through Samuel, the posterity was raised. Today's Bible passage begins in verse 18 when David was on the run from Saul after defeating Goliath and went to Ramah where Samuel resided. After David was anointed with oil to be raised as the king by Samuel, their relationship turned sour. Due to the conflicts, Samuel stopped his ministry and returned to his hometown to train the prophets and raise the posterity. After Saul heard the news, he sent the messengers to take David, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. Then Saul went to Ramah and the Spirit of God came upon him also to which he stripped off his clothes and prophesied. For him to strip off his clothes meant that he was able to surrender himself.

Most cases, God never worked upon such individuals like He did with them. Rightfully so, God was able to punish them, but God allowed them to be filled by the Holy Spirit even more. Why? To bind the adversary is important, but what is more important is to prepare the future to have unity. It is only the Bible that emphasizes the work of the adversary.

The life of the bartizan is not by action, but is a movement that must continue on forever. If you are able to give your life to relay the basics to posterity, then you have fulfilled your duty.

After the Israelites conquered the Canaan, they did not relay the covenant accurately to the posterity to which they had no choice but to face the wicked age of the Judges. If you do not accurately prepare the future, then it has no choice but to repeat itself. However, if your life goal is centered on the posterity, not only will your life be raised upright, this age will be raised upright as well and God's desire will be fulfilled.

It's not easy to live the life of a bartizan. Samuel lived a difficult life even though many knew him as a renown figure. Nonetheless, Samuel never faced failures. It is because he lived the life of a bartizan. What kind of pressure of life are you faced with? You can never do it on your own. However, any pressure of life that you are faced with can never oppress you. No matter how much Satan is at work to block you, Satan can never defeat the victorious life as you have faith in the power of God and confess only Jesus Christ. It is God that will rightfully raise your life upright. May you resolve that you will be victorious. If you resolve to live the life of the evangelist until the last day of your life, then God will raise your life and He will acknowledge it as well. Your heart may be full of complications, but without any regrets, you will be able to stand before God. In the name of Jesus Christ may you enjoy this blessing.